

## House Republican Press Release

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### Rep. Boucher Supports Campaign Finance Reform



#### *Urges Modifications to Close Loopholes*

State Representative Toni Boucher, R-143, Wilton, Norwalk, voted for sweeping campaign finance reform legislation that passed the state House of Representatives by an 82-65 vote. The campaign finance reform plan bans contributions from lobbyists and state contractors and establishes a voluntary, publicly funded financing system for state candidates.

She noted the measures contains huge loopholes that allow legislative leaders' political action committees to skirt the ban on special interest money.

"Closing these loopholes should be the first order of business in 2006," she said.

The public system would be financed by unclaimed property such as abandoned bank accounts that are typically deposited into the state's General Fund. Candidates who do not accept the public funding system still will not be able to accept money from lobbyists and contractors. They can still raise money from individuals, political action committees and state parties.

The new plan also bans campaign advertising booklets used for fund-raising, and it will take effect in December 2006 for the 2008 legislative campaigns and 2010 gubernatorial and other statewide races.

Rep. Boucher said, "The time has come for campaign finance reform. Both houses of the legislature passed similar bills earlier this year. Working groups studied the issue over the summer, and the governor has called a special session of the legislature to address the issue."

"If there was ever a time to act, this was it," said Rep. Boucher.

Rep. Boucher serves the 143<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District of Wilton and Norwalk in the state House of Representatives.